



CHILD CARE
COORDINATING COUNCIL
OF NEVADA COUNTY

Needs Assessment 2004

November 2004

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The opinions, beliefs, and values expressed in this document do not represent those of the above agencies.

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1. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In the 1990's, the quality of child care for our nation's youngest citizens emerged as an issue. Policy makers became aware of the challenging working conditions, low wages and turnover rate of Early Care and Education providers. In Nevada County itself, according to the 10-County Child Care Economic Impact Report recently published by the Capitol Regional Resource Center, 485 individuals are employed by early care and education agencies; \$19,733,370 in direct revenue is generated; and an additional \$8,578,812 in indirect revenue is generated in Nevada County by the early care and education industry. Direct revenue funnels directly to providers, center employees, and provider agencies. Indirect revenue is a result of child care being provided, such as a parent's ability to be employed because their child is in care outside of their home.

Although in recent years, funding has either been cut or remained stagnant for many quality improvement programs, new initiatives have emerged across the country. In California, private foundations, policy makers and the First 5 California Commission and county First 5 Commissions are sponsoring initiatives such as Preschool For All, the Informal Child Caregiver Support Project, and the School Readiness Initiative. All of these are designed to increase the quality of care that the state's children attend daily. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that by the year 2010, 85% of the labor force will be comprised of parents. For many parents, quality child care is a daily necessity.

California's child care development and planning councils have played an important role in the development of state and local child care policy. Councils are mandated to utilize public input in the development of countywide priorities for Early Care and Education (ECE) services. The Childcare Coordinating Council of Nevada County (CCCNC) was established in 1991 to develop local priorities for child care and plan for local child care needs.

State Department of Education Code 8499 states that "It is the intent of the Legislature that local child care and development planning councils shall provide a forum for the identification of local priorities for child care and the development of policies to meet the needs identified within those priorities." To accomplish this, local planning councils are required to conduct an assessment of child care needs at least every five years.

To achieve this goal and determine the child care needs in Nevada County, the Child Care Coordinating Council of Nevada County contracted with Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI) to conduct the needs assessment. Three primary methods of assessing child care needs in the county were utilized. Data from local and state agencies was collected and analyzed, county employees were surveyed to determine their child care needs, and two parent focus groups were held to determine the child care needs of Grass Valley and Truckee residents.

Child Care Needs

According to the 2003 California Child Care Portfolio published by the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network, licensed care is only available for 29% of children 0-13 who have parents in the labor force in Nevada County. When those figures are further broken down, licensed center-based care is only available for 7% of infants and 49% of preschoolers.

Although Sierra Nevada Children's Services reports that Nevada County has more groups involved in child care than ever before, many parents still struggle to find affordable, quality care, especially during non-traditional hours. The need for care during non-traditional hours was reiterated by parents during focus groups in both Truckee and Grass Valley. In fact, in 2003 three child care centers in Truckee closed. At the same time, a number of Truckee providers limited their hours of operation as well as the ages of children they would accept. Four child care centers in Grass Valley closed that same year.

In the California County Data Book 2003, Children Now reported that approximately 73% of children ages 3 and up were enrolled in preschool in Nevada County.¹ Given the decrease in providers, efforts must be made to rebuild the supply of child care.

Care for school age children is one of the most highly needed types of care in Nevada County as indicated by the percentage of resource and referral calls requesting information about school age care received by Sierra Nevada Children's Services (SNCS) and the results of the county employee survey highlighted in this report.

Forty-one percent (41%) of all licensed slots in Nevada County child care centers are available for children 6 years and older. It is challenging to assess the full extent of care slots needed for this age group because school age programs in school settings do not need to be licensed. School age care in Nevada County is provided onsite at schools, through 4-H programs, by park and recreation programs, in private licensed child care centers, by licensed family child care homes, and by license exempt providers such as friends and relatives.

Focus Group Results

In order to get the clearest picture regarding the need for care in Nevada County, two additional methods were used to solicit input from county residents regarding their need for child care. Parent focus groups were held in both Truckee and Grass Valley, and the employees of Nevada County governmental agencies were surveyed regarding their needs.

During focus groups with parents in both Grass Valley and Truckee, parents expressed the need for child care in the evenings, on the weekends and holidays as well as a need for more part-time care. The high cost of child care was an issue for some parents, as well as transportation to and from child care or schools. There was also concern regarding the quality of care provided and the insufficient amount of child care subsidy funding available for working poor families. It was additionally noted that some working poor families had difficulty accessing subsidies as demonstrated by the fact that the waiting list has almost as many people on it as already receive subsidies. When families do receive subsidies, they may have difficulty affording the co-pay.

In Grass Valley, issues related to accessing care fit into three major areas: availability, quality and cost. Again, participants expressed concern about the lack of part-time, off-hour care. Participants were also concerned about their inability to find emergency or sick care and expressed difficulties in finding quality child care. The cost of care was noted as a barrier for the working poor. The primary issue faced by participants in Truckee was the high cost of living. The level of child care subsidy funding was considered inadequate and the working poor were considered to be the hardest hit by the high cost of living.

¹ California County Data Book 2003, Children Now. Found online at www.childrennow.org

Another issue was the lack of awareness and common knowledge regarding licensed care and other services.

Quality care was defined by participants as competent/caring infant care; use of developmentally appropriate practices; low teacher/child ratios; preparing children for Kindergarten (school readiness); Montessori style college preschool programs; and qualified child care providers. It was additionally defined as opportunities to learn through play and experiences, and clean, safe, large environments. Participants noted that high quality child care programs generally had the longest waiting lists in both Truckee and Grass Valley.

Participants were concerned that parents who stay home with their children received little support for doing so. They also felt that providers who loved their jobs and the children were very positive. The relationship between the child and the provider was noted as very important. Social interactions between the children and the structure provided by child care providers were also identified as being good results stemming from quality child care environments in Nevada County. Mentoring programs, while limited in Truckee, were perceived as very important for providers. The most notable difference between responses from participants in the two areas was the high cost of living in Truckee and the impact that it has on accessing child care.

Nevada County Employee Survey Results

The Nevada County Employee Survey regarding child care needs was distributed electronically to the approximately 1,000 county employees in early August. County employees were asked to return the survey to the Council Office either by email, mail, or fax by September 15th 2004. Forty-five surveys were completed and returned representing a response level of almost 5%. The survey is attached to the report as Appendix A. The Human Resources department of Nevada County distributed the survey and informed the Council that approximately 50% of all county employees will be eligible for retirement by January 2006.

Respondents were asked to identify the type of care they needed over the past 12 months while they worked. The majority of respondents reported needing either after school care or full-time care. Given the high percentage of respondents with school age children, it is not surprising that the most commonly reported child care need during the past 12 months was after school care. Also notable was that 44% of all respondents needed sick child care; 29% needed drop-in care; 18% needed evening care; and 11% needed weekend care.

In 2003, the California Child Care Portfolio reported that the majority of licensed care slots in Nevada County were housed in child care centers. Survey results were consistent with this, indicating that 62% of all respondents used center-based care for their children. When separated by age group however, children newborn to two years old were most commonly cared for by licensed family child care providers.

Overall, 73% of respondents said that their child care needs had been met in the last 12 months. Families with school age children reported the highest incident of having only some or none of their child care needs met however. When asked to explain why their child care needs were not met, respondents indicated that primarily the cost of care was too high, or the hours and days of care they needed were not available.

Of all respondents, 80% indicated that the quality of care was one of their top three priorities when selecting care for their children. Sixty percent reported that affordability as one of their top three priorities, and 60% reported that the hours and days available was one of their top three priorities.

Surprisingly few parents rated safety as one of their top three priorities. No families with infants, 36% of families with 3-5 year olds, and 12% of families with school age children rated safety as one of their top three priorities when choosing care. This may be due to the assumption that quality care includes safety as a top priority already.

Additional Needs Assessment Areas

The Child Care Coordinating Council of Nevada County additionally assessed the needs of children in the categories established by Education Code 8499. Specific findings regarding those groups are presented here and are described in further detail throughout the body of this report.

Waiting Lists - At the end of July 2004, 502 children were receiving subsidies in Nevada County, and 487 were on the waiting list. This means that the current subsidy funding is serving approximately half of the children in the county who are eligible. During fiscal year 2003-2004, 40 children were on the waiting list for Nevada County Head Start services, and 24 children were on the waiting list for Early Head Start services. Additionally, State Preschools throughout the county reported having 19 children on the waiting list during that same period.

Need for Care of Abused or Neglected Children - Children Now reported that reports of abuse of children ages 0-17 in Nevada County occurred at an average rate of 63 cases per 1,000 children between 1999 and 2001. This is higher than the state rate of 52 per 1,000 and the national rate of 45 per 1,000. Sierra Nevada Children's Services reported that 12 children were provided with respite care during fiscal year 2003-2004. During calendar year 2003, the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition reported serving 460 children in Nevada County, and Tahoe Women's Services served 79 children in the Truckee area.

Children Receiving Public Assistance - The number of families receiving CalWORKs has decreased by more than 50% since 1999. The Nevada County Department of Education reported that during the month of October 2003, 220 families with 524 children were in families receiving CalWORKs throughout the county. According to the 1999 Child Care Needs Assessment, 522 families with 1,146 children were receiving TANF, the equivalent of today's CalWORKs program. This represents a 58% decrease in the number of families receiving cash assistance in Nevada County. Additionally, the county Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program reported serving between 1,350 and 1,450 women, infants and children per month during 2003.

Family Income Levels - The median household income for Nevada County residents is \$45,864. This is slightly less than the state median household income level of \$47,493, and slightly above the national median income of \$41,994. Since 1990, Nevada County's median family income has increased by over 42%. According to 2000 Census data, 8.1% of Nevada County residents lived below poverty as compared to 14.2% of all Californians. Eleven percent (11%) of children under the age of five were living in poverty according to the 2000 Census.² This is down slightly from 1989 when 13% of children under the age of five lived in poverty.

² US Census. Retrieved online 7/04 at www.census.gov

Children in Migrant Families - In 2004, no families were identified as migrant families with children in Nevada County. The county is not included in the regions established by the federal government where services for migrant families are needed.

Children Requiring Special Needs Services - As of September 2004, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office of Special Education reported 24 families with severely handicapped children that had Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) in place. Schools in Nevada County reported that 15,119 children were enrolled during the 2003-2004 school year. Of those, 1,317 children (just under 9%) were enrolled in special education programs.

Primary Languages - Less than 1% of children (103) in grades K-12 in Nevada County public schools are considered English Learners. Of those, the primary native language is Spanish. Ninety-one percent of Nevada County residents primarily speak English at home. Five percent of the county's residents speak Spanish while at home, 3.5% speak other Indo-European languages and 0.5% speak an Asian or Pacific Island language at home.

Additional Community Level Findings

Specific community characteristics are discussed in detail in the Community Profiles section of this report. Some highlights, however, are that the Twin Ridges School District which serves the communities of Washington and North San Juan have the lowest median household income levels, while Truckee has the highest. Truckee, Clear Creek and Grass Valley elementary schools currently have the highest percentage of children enrolled with special needs. Truckee Elementary has the highest percentage of Spanish speaking children enrolled followed closely by Pleasant Ridge and Clear Creek elementary schools.

Grass Valley has the greatest percentage of children as a portion of the total population. Given the high median household income level in Truckee, even though it is technically the largest city in the county, it is not surprising that Grass Valley has the largest waiting list for and number of children receiving child care subsidies. Additionally, Grass Valley has the greatest number of licensed child care facilities which include 19 small family child care homes, 14 large family child care homes, 8 child care centers, 2 State Preschools, and a 4-H after school program.

2. CHILD CARE NEEDS IN NEVADA COUNTY

Introduction

The Child Care Coordinating Council of Nevada County (CCCCNC) came into existence in 1991 as a result of the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act. Every state was required to submit a plan for implementing these programs and had to name a responsible lead agency. California's plan included the establishment of county level planning systems to identify specific populations to be served.

In June of 1991, the County Board of Supervisors joined the County Office of Education in designating the Council as the local planning group for Nevada County. The establishment of local child care development and planning councils statewide was formalized by law in October of the same year. In 1996, President Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility Act which consolidated all federal child care funds into a single Block Grant. Since then, California's child care development and planning councils have played an important role in the development of state and local child care policy.

State Department of Education Code 8499 states that, "It is the intent of the Legislature that local child care and development planning councils shall provide a forum for the identification of local priorities for child care and the development of policies to meet the needs identified within those priorities." To accomplish this, local planning councils are required to conduct an assessment of child care needs at least every five years.

CCCCNC last conducted a child care needs assessment in 1999. The needs assessment must meet requirements specified in Education Code, Section 8499.5(b). Required areas of assessment include the following:

- The needs of families both eligible and ineligible for subsidized child care
- The status of waiting lists for programs funded by the State Department of Education and the State Department of Social Services and CalWORKS
- The need for child care for children determined by the child protective services agency to be neglected, abused, or exploited, or at risk of being neglected, abused, or exploited
- The number of children in families that receive public assistance
- Family income levels of those with preschool or school age children
- The number of children in migrant agricultural families who move from place to place for work or who are currently dependent for their income on agricultural employment
- The number of children who have been determined by a regional center or a local education agency to require services pursuant to an individualized family service plan

- The number of children in the county by primary language pursuant to the department's language survey
- Special needs based on geographic considerations, including rural areas
- The number of children needing child care by age cohort

In early 2004, Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI) was contracted to conduct this child care needs assessment for Nevada County.

2004 Needs Assessment Methodology

In order to determine the child care needs in Nevada County, data sources were established during a regular meeting of the local planning council. The Council Coordinator and SEI then contacted the agencies tracking the appropriate data. The data was then forwarded to or researched directly by SEI. Gaps in data were identified, and SEI performed supplemental research. Data sources included the county CalWORKs office, Sierra Nevada Children's Services (SNCS), First 5 Nevada County, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office of Special Education Services, and the Grass Valley School District, State Preschools, Head Start and Early Head Start programs, 4-H School Age Care programs, Sierra College, Child Protective Services, Alta Regional Center, the child care licensing office, and local rehabilitation programs offering child care as part of their programs.

Simultaneously, county employees were surveyed to determine their child care needs. The Council chose to survey employees of Nevada County governmental agencies because their demographics were representative of families across the county, and the county had requested that the council survey their employees regarding their child care needs. The survey asked county employees about their need for child care including days, times, barriers confronted, preferences regarding location and environment, the type of child care used, and what was most important to them when choosing care. Each of these questions included options for indicating the age of the child, whether there was more than one child in the family needing care, and how the needs differed for each child.

The survey results were then entered into a database by the Council Coordinator, and the data was analyzed by SEI to determine facts as well as trends. Where possible, data from local agencies was compared with these survey results to provide a broader context for findings.

Further, two parent focus groups were held to determine the child care needs of Grass Valley and Truckee residents. Participants were asked to describe their greatest needs for care, the issues and barriers they confronted, the quality of care found locally, and what was working well for them in terms of child care. The survey and focus group results are presented in section 3 of this report, beginning on page 21.

Nevada County

Located in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, Nevada County, or the Gold Rush County as some like to call it, was the most predominant gold mining area of the famous California Gold Rush. Nevada City was established in 1850 when the original gold mining camp became heavily populated with fortune seekers from all parts of the country. The original residents aptly named this mining town in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, Nevada, which means, "snow covered" in

Spanish. Later, in 1851, Nevada County was formed from a section of the adjacent county, Yuba, and Nevada City was established as the County Seat.³

Nevada County is also home to the tale of the Donner Party, the unfortunate group of settlers whom were trapped by walls of “Sierra Cement”, as the locals now call it, and were unable to force their way through the deep snow to safety on the other side of the mountains. They were forced to set up a makeshift camp at the base of what is now called Donner Lake, and infamously resorted to cannibalism as a means of staying alive.

The original founders of the county wanted to include access to the railroad, and therefore added the long rectangular piece of the county that includes the city of Truckee. It is interesting to note that the shape of the county resembles the derringer pocket pistol, the pistol of choice by rogue residents during the gold rush era.⁴ Today, Nevada County has seven primary cities, including Alta Sierra, Grass Valley, Lake of the Pines, Lake Wildwood, Nevada City, Penn Valley and Truckee.

Beginning with the Gold Rush, Nevada County’s rich natural resources have drawn people from all over the country, and they still do today. The County boasts nearly 200,000 acres of forests, four California State parks, world-renown rock climbing at Donner Summit, world class kayaking down the Yuba river, and numerous lakes, rivers and hiking trails.⁵ Today, Nevada County is the outdoor sports enthusiasts dream come true, just as it was over 150 years ago for some very lucky gold miners.

The map below Map found online at U.S. Census Bureau www.census.gov and is included to provide context for this report. Smaller areas are not labeled.



³ Nevada County Gold/ History. Retrieved online on 8/6/04 from www.ncgold.com.

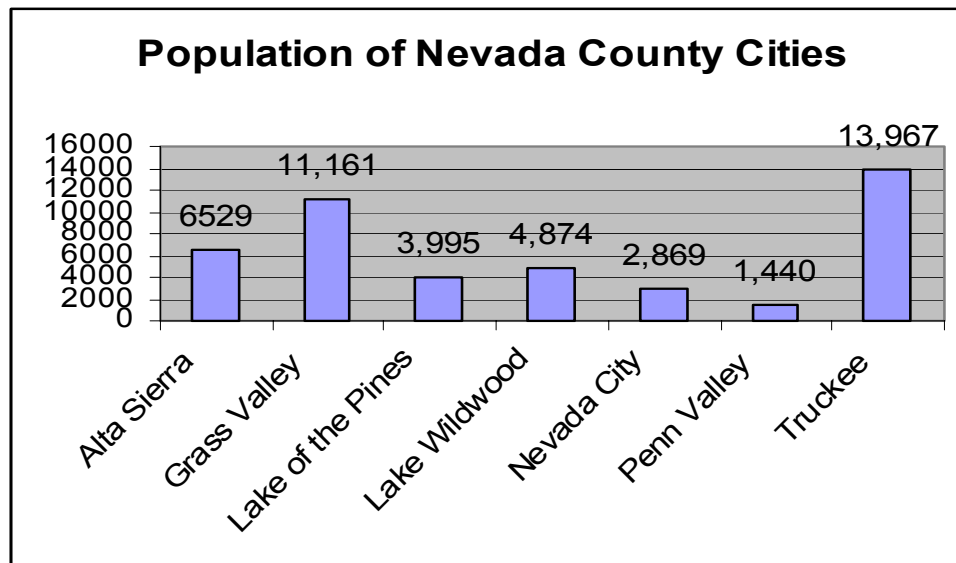
⁴ Nevada County, California. Retrieved online on 8/6/04 from www.en.wikipedia.org

⁵ Economic & Demographic Nevada County Profile Series, Center for Economic Development, California State University, Chico. 2004.

Population

Nevada County is not heavily populated, partially due to the large amount of National Forest land within the County. The U.S. Census estimated that Nevada County's total population in 2003 was 96,099, representing a 4% increase since 2000. Twenty-three percent (23%) of the population was identified as being under 18 years of age (19,315), and 4.7% of the population was under 5 years of age (4,889). The median age in Nevada County according to the 2000 Census was 43.1 years of age.

The graph below illustrates the population by city in Nevada County. The most populated city within the County is Truckee, followed by Grass Valley.



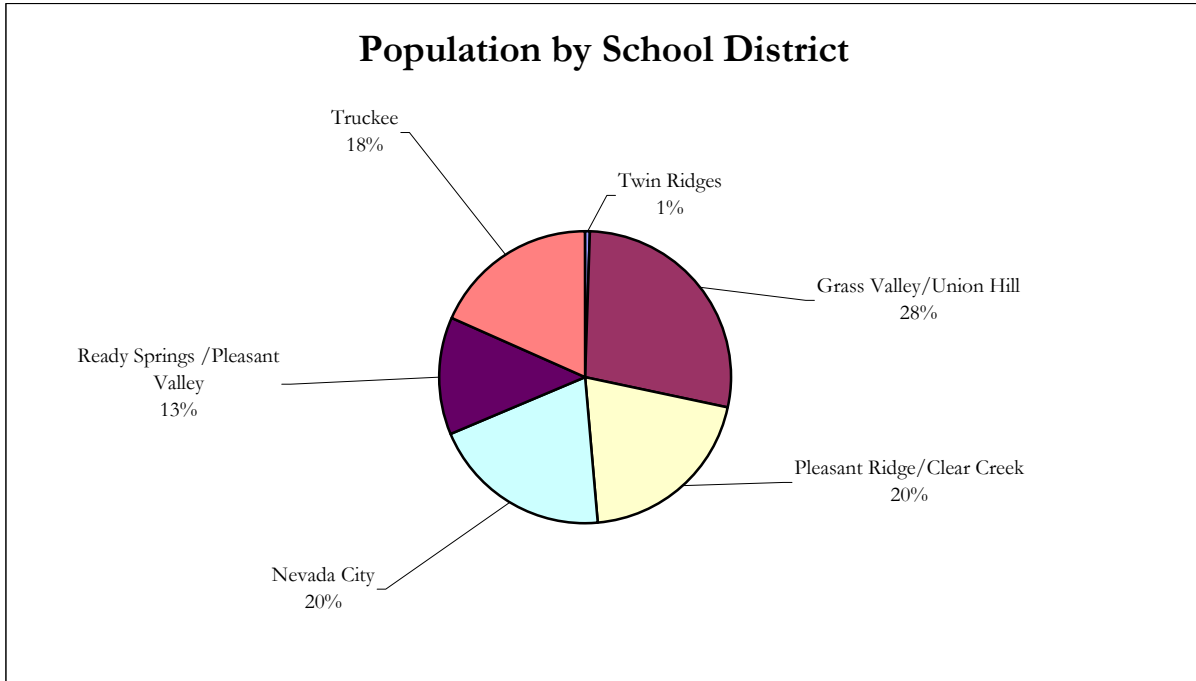
Source: US Census, 2000

The California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, estimates that by the year 2005, Nevada County's population will reach 100,000. By 2010 they estimate that the population will have grown by 2.6% and reach 115,000 people.⁶

For the purposes of this assessment, the County has been broken down by school districts. There are nine school districts within the county including: Twin Ridges School District, Grass Valley School District, Union Hill School District, Pleasant Ridge School District, Clear Creek School District, Nevada City School District, Ready Springs School District, Pleasant Valley School District, and Chicago School District. Truckee Elementary is actually a part of the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District, which is overseen by the Placer County Office of Education. Because Truckee is in Nevada County however, data from Truckee Elementary School was used for comparison's sake. The population within each of these school districts (or schools) varies from the city population data presented above because the school districts cross county, city, incorporated and unincorporated boundaries. The pie chart on the following page shows the population by school district as determined by zip codes with the exception of Chicago Park School District for which data was not available. Please note that data was available by zip code, and some school districts serve students

⁶ Economic & Demographic Nevada County Profile Series, Center for Economic Development, California State University, Chico. 2004.

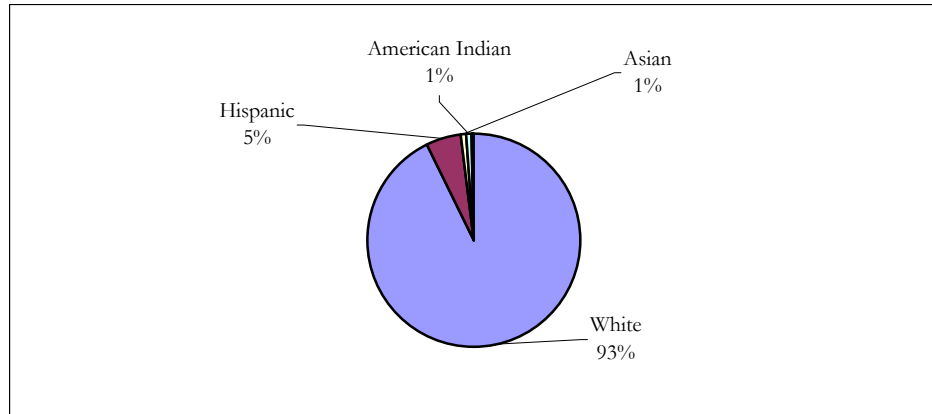
across zip code boundaries. Therefore, the data for some school districts was combined. The school district with the largest population was Grass Valley even though the city of Truckee holds the largest population. This is primarily due to the geographic areas served by these districts. Specifically the Truckee population is extracted from data for the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District which serves Truckee and the surrounding communities, many of which are in Placer County.



Ethnicity

Unlike many other counties within California, the overwhelming majority of residents in Nevada County are White, not of Hispanic Origin. The pie chart on the following page shows the ethnic breakdown within the County.

Percentage of Nevada County Population By Ethnicity



Source: Economic & Demographic Profile Series, 2004

Language Spoken at Home

Ninety-one percent (91%) of Nevada County residents primarily speak English at home. Five percent of the county’s residents speak Spanish while at home, 3.5% speak other Indo-European languages and 0.5% speak an Asian or Pacific Island language at home.⁷ Most notably, the number of Spanish speaking households increased by 112% between 1990 and 2000, and the number of households speaking an Asian language increased by 98%.⁸

Less than 1% of children (103) in grades K-12 in Nevada County public schools are considered English Learners. Of those, the primary native language is Spanish.⁹ Of the 478 children receiving subsidies in Nevada County, Sierra Nevada Children’s Services reported that 9 children speak Spanish and one child speaks German. The remaining 98% of children receiving subsidies speak English.

Employment and Education

The primary industry in Nevada County is Services which includes a wide variety of businesses providing services to both the public and private sector, including but not limited to lodging, repair, amusement, health, legal services, and education.¹⁰

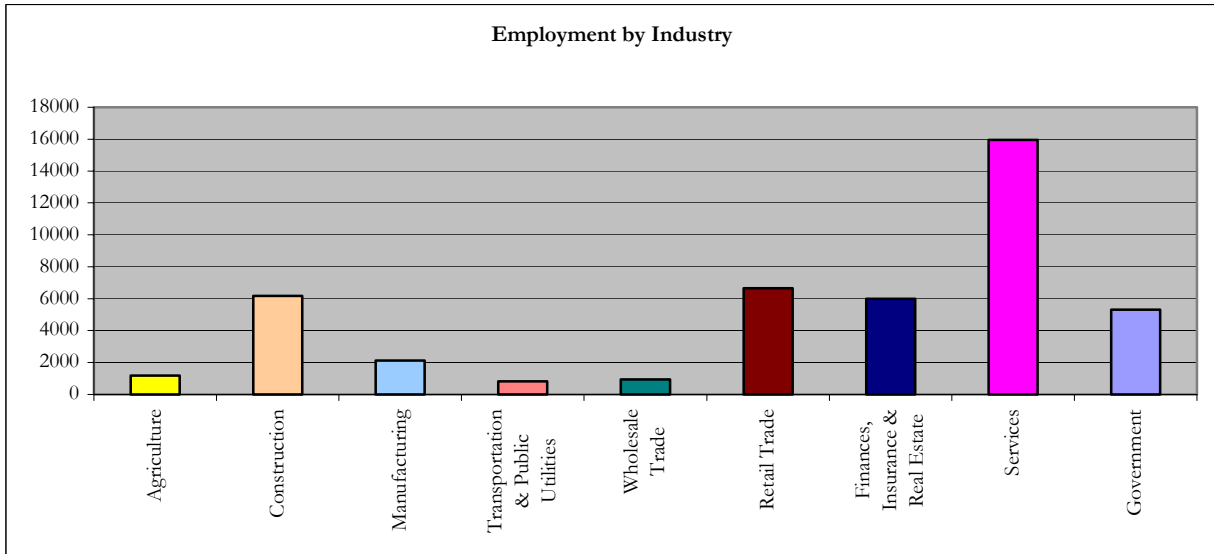
The bar graph on the following page identifies the ten major industries in the County.

⁷ US Census. Retrieved online 8/6/04 at www.census.gov

⁸ The 2003 California Child Care Portfolio – Nevada County. Found online at <http://www.childrennow.org/assets/pdf/cdb03/cdb03-nevada.pdf>

⁹ California Department of Education, Educational Demographics Unit, 2004.

¹⁰ Economic & Demographic Nevada County Profile Series, Center for Economic Development, California State University, Chico. 2004.



Source: Economic & Demographic Profile Series, 2004

Nevada County is heavily reliant upon one type of industry, Services, which can lead to economic instability if that particular industry experiences a downturn.

The largest employers within the county are, not surprisingly, primarily services oriented. Major employers in the county include Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, Tahoe Truckee Unified School District, County of Nevada, Tahoe Forest Hospital District, and Bank of the West.¹¹

The 1999 Nevada County Child Care Needs Assessment reported that 13% of all students dropped out of school. In its 2003 Data Book, Children Now reported that Nevada County had an annual student drop out rate of 2.4%, a significant decrease. The number of high school graduates that are prepared for college, however, decreased slightly from 40% in 1996 to 38% in 2001.

Family Income and Poverty

The median household income for Nevada County residents is \$45,864. This is slightly above the national median income of \$41,994, and significantly higher than their neighbor, Yuba County, whose median household income is \$30,460.¹² Since 1990, the county's median family income has increased by over 42%.

According to 2000 Census data, 8.1% of Nevada County residents lived below poverty as compared to 14.2% of all Californians. Eleven percent (11%) of children under the age of five were living in poverty according to the 2000 Census.¹³ This is down slightly from 1989 when 13% of children under the age of five lived in poverty.

¹¹ 2004 Economic and Demographic Profile – Nevada County. Published by the Center for Economic Development California State University, Chico.

¹² US Census. Retrieved online on 8/10/04 at www.census.gov

¹³ US Census. Retrieved online 7/04 at www.census.gov

The lowest median household income levels in Nevada County are found in the Twin Ridges School District (\$21,667 in the community of Washington) and the Grass Valley School District (\$33,629), while the highest median household income levels are found in Truckee (\$58,113).

Families Receiving Public Assistance

The number of families receiving CalWORKs has decreased by more than 50% since 1999. The Nevada County Department of Education reported that during the month of October 2003, 220 families with 524 children were in families receiving CalWORKs throughout the county. According to the 1999 Child Care Needs Assessment, 522 families with 1,146 children were receiving TANF, the equivalent of today's CalWORKs program. This represents a 58% decrease in the number of families receiving cash assistance in Nevada County.

Additionally, 2,827 children, almost 19% of children enrolled in schools throughout Nevada County qualify for free and reduced meals. Sixteen hundred thirty-seven (1,637) of those qualify for free meals, while 1,190 children qualify for reduced price meals.¹⁴

Additionally, the county Women, Infant and Children program reported serving between 1,350 and 1,450 women, infants and children per month.

Subsidized Child Care Eligibility

At the end of July 2004, 502 children were receiving subsidies in Nevada County, and 487 were on the waiting list. This means that the current subsidy funding is serving approximately half of the children in the county who are eligible. Of the 502 children receiving subsidies, 15% are newborn to 2 years, 35% are 2-5 years of age, and 41% are 6 years and up (school age).

The table below describes the percentage of children in the communities described in the Community Profiles section of this report, beginning on page 33. It also describes the number and percentage of children receiving subsidies in each of those communities. The only community not represented in the table on the following page is Chicago Park. This is due to lack of available data, and the fact that no children in that community receive child care subsidies.

Please note that the communities highlighted in this report do not include 100% of the total county population. Grass Valley holds the highest percentage of children in all communities within Nevada County. This is not surprising given the cost of living in Truckee.

¹⁴ Nevada County Department of Education, Distribution of CalWORKs Children and Free and Reduced Price Meal Program Enrollment, reported October 2004. Found online at <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>

Nevada County Community	Number of Children under 18	Percentage of Nevada County Children Living in Community	Number of children receiving subsidies	Percentage of community population under 18 receiving subsidies
Twin Ridges	90	0.5%	12	13%
Grass Valley/ Union Hill	5,259	27%	291	6%
Pleasant Ridge/ Clear Creek	3,517	18%	42	1%
Nevada City	2,125	11%	48	2%
Ready Springs/ Pleasant Valley	2,050	11%	62	3%
Truckee	3,786	20%	47	1%

Waiting Lists for Other Publicly Funded Programs

During fiscal year 2003-2004, 40 children were on the waiting list for Nevada County Head Start services, and 24 children were on the waiting list for Early Head Start services. Additionally, State Preschools throughout the county reported having 19 children on the waiting list during that same period. Ten children were on the waiting list in the Ready Springs district, seven were on the waiting list in Truckee, and two children were on the waiting list for State Preschool in the Union Hill district.

Children with Special Needs

As of September 2004, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office of Special Education reported 24 families with severely handicapped children that had Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) in place.

According to Kids Count census data online, 6% of children 5 to 15 in Nevada County have some type of disability. Almost one quarter of those have more than one disability, and 60% have what is termed a mental disability.

The California Office of Education reported that 15,119 children were enrolled in Nevada County schools during the 2003-2004 school year. Of those, 1,317 children (just under 9%) were enrolled in special education programs. Truckee, Clear Creek and Grass Valley elementary schools currently have the highest percentage of children enrolled with special needs. The table on the following page identifies the number of children enrolled in special education in the primary Nevada County elementary schools serving the areas highlighted in this report.

Elementary School	Number of Children Enrolled in Elementary School with a Disability 2003-2004	Number of Children Enrolled 2003-2004	Percentage of Children with Special Needs
Chicago Park Elementary	6	131	5%
Union Hill Elementary	55	779	7%
Twin Ridges Elementary	168	2,191	8%
Ready Springs Union Elementary	32	404	8%
Pleasant Valley Elementary	55	697	8%
Pleasant Ridge Union Elementary	162	2,073	8%
Nevada City Elementary	119	1,436	8%
Grass Valley Elementary	197	1,848	11%
Clear Creek Elementary	15	129	12%
Truckee Elementary	96	656	15%

Social Services

Children Now reported that reports of abuse of children aged 0-17 in Nevada County occurred at an average rate of 63 cases per 1,000 children from 1999 to 2001. This is higher than the state rate of 52 per 1,000 and the national rate of 45 per 1,000. Children 0-18 in Nevada County were placed in foster care at a rate of five per 1,000 from 2000 to 2002.¹⁵

During the month of December 2003, 114 child welfare cases were open in Nevada County. Most notably, only 13% of those cases involved children 5 years and younger. Sixty-one percent (61%) of those cases involved boys, and 69% involved children between the ages of 11 and 18 years old. Not surprisingly, given the county's ethnic make up, 89% of those cases involved children in white families.¹⁶

Sierra Nevada Children's Services reported that 12 children were provided with respite care during fiscal year 2003-2004. The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition reported serving 460 children during calendar year 2003 and 353 children between January and September of 2004. Clearly more child care services are needed for children at risk of or who are substantiated victims of child abuse and neglect.

¹⁵ Fact Sheet Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics. California Department of Health Services. Found online at <http://www.applications.dhs.ca.gov/epicdata/cms/documents/FatalCANFacts.pdf>

¹⁶ Child Welfare Services/Case Management System Characteristics of Children in Out of Home Care for the Month of December 2003, Nevada County. Found online at: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/res/pdf/CWS2/2003/cws2Dec03.PDF>

Migrant Families with Children

Migrant workers are identified as those who seek temporary or seasonal work in agriculture, fishing, or related industries including food processing. Generally, they follow growing seasons across the country and are largely responsible for the cultivation and harvest of fruits, vegetables, as well as other food products. Migrant workers usually have an average income below the national poverty level.

In 2004, no families were identified as migrant families with children in Nevada County. The county is not included in the regions established by the federal government where services for migrant families are needed.

Changing Child Care Needs

Grass Valley is a fast growing community in the Sierra Nevada foothills above Marysville where child care centers make up the majority of licensed care in the area.

According to the U.S. Census, 62% of children 6 years and under lived with either two parents or a single parent in the workforce. This is the standard method used by the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network to estimate the need for care. This means that an estimated 3,615 children under the age of six in Nevada County need care, and there are approximately 2,873 slots available. Those figures do not include school age children needing care.

According to the 1999 Nevada County Child Care Needs Assessment, an estimated 53% of children under six years needed care. This means that over a five year period the need for care of children under six years of age has increased by over 14%, while the overall population of children in that same age group decreased in population during that same time.¹⁷ In the California County Data Book 2003, Children Now reported that approximately 73% of children ages 3 and up were enrolled in preschool in Nevada County.¹⁸ Given the decrease in providers, efforts must be made to rebuild the supply of child care.

Although Sierra Nevada Children's Services reports that Nevada County has more groups involved in child care than ever before, many parents still struggle to find affordable, quality care, especially during non-traditional hours. In 2003, three child care centers in Truckee closed. At the same time, a number of Truckee providers limited their hours of operation as well as the ages of children they would accept. Four child care centers in Grass Valley closed that same year.

Child Care Supply

According to the 2003 California Child Care Portfolio for Nevada County, there are 2,873 licensed child care slots available in the county which is only enough to serve 29% of children newborn to 13 years with parents in the workforce. Sixty-four percent (64%) of those slots are in child care centers, while 36% are in licensed family child care homes. When broken down further, licensed center-based care is only

¹⁷ US Census. Retrieved online 9/04 at www.census.gov

¹⁸ California County Data Book 2003, Children Now. Found online at www.childrennow.org

available for 7% of infants in the county, and 49% of all preschoolers.¹⁹ Given the decrease in providers, efforts must be made to rebuild the supply of child care.

According to Sierra Nevada Children’s Services, in early 2004, county-wide licensed settings included 48 licensed child care centers (including school district, special district, state preschool, private centers and Head Start programs), 33 large family child care homes, and 54 small family child care homes. An additional 60 exempt providers were caring for children enrolled in the county’s subsidy program. These exempt providers included relatives of children and TrustLine providers.

The table on the following page identifies the number of care settings by type in the specific Nevada County communities highlighted in this assessment. The figures below were provided by Sierra Nevada Children’s Services (SNCS) based on zip codes as determined by the United States Postal Services. The table does not reflect all child care available within Nevada County, only in the communities highlighted in this report.

	School / Public and 4-H	State Preschool	Small Family Care	Large Family Care	Private Center	Head Start/ EHS
Twin Ridges	1	1 (combined with Head Start)				1 (combined with State Pre-K)
Grass Valley/ Union Hill	1	2	19	14	8	1
Pleasant Ridge/ Clear Creek	4		12	6	1	
Nevada City	1	1	1	6	6	
Ready Springs/ Pleasant Valley	1	1 (combined with Head Start)	7	2		1 (combined with State Pre-K)
Truckee	1	1	11	9	9	1 HS and 1 EHS program

The number listed under the heading of “Private Centers” includes privately owned and non-profit centers. 4-H after school programs, special district and unlicensed programs offered by school districts are listed under the heading “School/Public and 4-H.” Some school district programs are not licensed and only provide school age care.

During a survey of the early care and education workforce conducted early in 2004, it was found that the majority of providers care for children between 7:00am and 6:00pm, Monday through Friday. The only licensed providers offering care on the weekends or evenings were small or large family care homes. Of those, three small family care homes provided care on Saturdays, while two provided care on Sundays. Of the large family care homes, three provided care on Saturdays, while one provided care on Sundays.

¹⁹ The 2003 California Child Care Portfolio – Nevada County. Found online at <http://www.childrennow.org/assets/pdf/cdb03/cdb03-nevada.pdf>

No small family care homes in Nevada County reported opening before 6:00am. However, one family care home was available to provide care until 10:30pm, seven days a week. Of the large family care homes, one reported opening at 4:30am and two reported opening at 5:00am. The remainder opened at 6:00am or later with 7:00am being the most common time for opening. This was followed closely by an opening time of 7:30am. No large family care home providers reported being open past 6:00pm.

Cost of Care

According to the California Child Care Portfolio, the average annual cost of full-time licensed center-based care for a preschooler 2-5 years old in Nevada County was \$5,075 in 2002. When looked at as a percentage of total annual household earnings, that is 36% of the total annual household income in a single parent family where the parent is earning minimum wage. It is 11% of the county's median family income (\$45,864), and 17% of the total annual income for a family earning \$30,000 per year. This annual cost of care is consistent with the cost of care reported by Nevada County employees discussed in section 3 of this report.

Demand for Child Care

According to the U.S. Census, 62% of children 6 years and under lived with either two parents or a single parent in the workforce. This is the standard way that the California Child Care Portfolio estimates the need for care. It means that an estimated 3,615 children under the age of six in Nevada County need care, and there are approximately 2,873 slots available. And those figures do not include school age children needing care. According to the 2003 California Child Care Portfolio, licensed care is only available for 29% of all children with parents in the labor force. When those figures are further broken down, licensed center-based care is only available for 7% of infants and 49% of preschoolers.

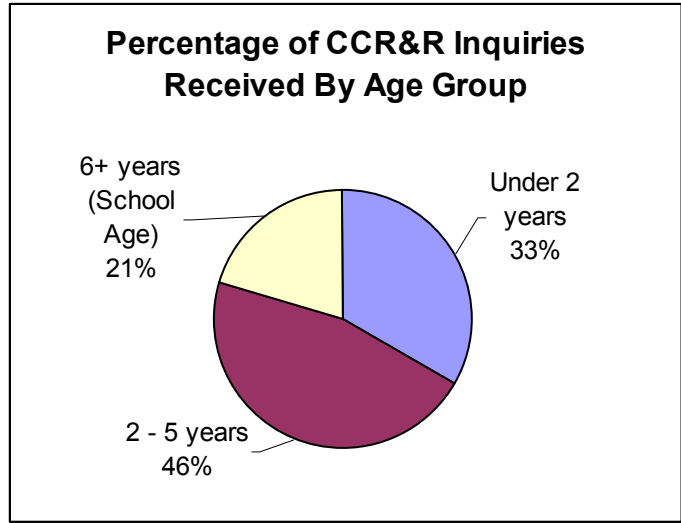
According to the 1999 Nevada County Child Care Needs Assessment, an estimated 53% of children under six years needed care. This means that over a five year period the need for care of children under six years of age has increased by over 14%, while the overall population of children in that same age group decreased in population during that same time.²⁰ In the California County Data Book 2003, Children Now reported that approximately 73% of children ages 3 and up were enrolled in preschool in Nevada County.²¹

Several additional local data sources were used during the course of this needs assessment to determine the demand for child care. Calls received by Sierra Nevada Children's Services (SNCS) Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Program were looked at, employees of Nevada County Government were surveyed, and parent focus groups were convened in both Grass Valley and Truckee.

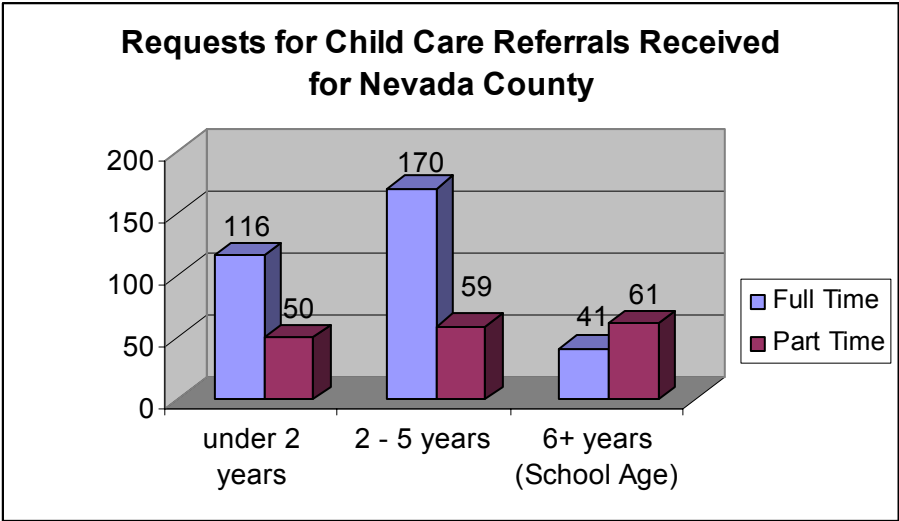
SNCS reported that 497 inquiries were received from families looking for child care during the last year (October 2003 through September 2004). Not surprisingly, the majority of those, 67%, were for full time care. Almost 80% of those inquiries were for children 5 years and younger. The pie chart on the following page indicates the exact percentages of inquiries received by age group.

²⁰ US Census. Retrieved online 9/04 at www.census.gov

²¹ California County Data Book 2003, Children Now. Found online at www.childrennow.org



The chart below illustrates the number of calls received by SNCS for referral to full time and part time child care providers by age group.



Source: Sierra Nevada Children's Services

In order to get the clearest picture regarding the need for care in Nevada County, two additional methods were used to solicit input from county residents regarding their need for child care. Parent focus groups were held in both Truckee and Grass Valley, and the employees of Nevada County governmental agencies were surveyed regarding their needs. The next section highlights findings from these processes.

3. NEVADA COUNTY RESIDENT RESPONSES

The Nevada County Employee Survey regarding child care needs was distributed electronically to the approximately 1,000 county employees in early August. County employees were asked to return the survey to the Council Office either by email, mail, or fax by September 15th 2004. Forty-five surveys were completed and returned representing a response level of almost 5%. The Human Resources Department of Nevada County distributed the survey and informed the Council that approximately 50% of all county employees will be eligible for retirement by January 2006.

Of the respondents, 76% reported having school age children; 31% had children 3-5 years old; and 13% had children newborn to two years. The 45 respondents had a total of 77 children 70% of which were school age (between the ages of 6 and 12 years). Sixty percent (60%) of all respondents were from the Nevada City/Grass Valley area, 11% were from Penn Valley, 2% were from Cedar Ridge, 2% were from Rough and Ready, and 20% of the responding county employees actually did not live within the county. The remaining 7% did not identify their residence. This means that survey responses from county employees do not necessarily represent those living in Truckee. However, most county offices are located in Grass Valley or Nevada City, the county seat.

Respondents were asked to identify the type of care they needed over the past 12 months while they worked. The majority of respondents reported needing either after school care or full-time care.

The table below indicates the type of care needed by respondents from the most commonly reported need to the least commonly reported need. Given the high percentage of respondents with school age children, it is not surprising that the most commonly reported child care need during the past 12 months was after school care. Also notable is that 44% of all respondents needed sick child care; 29% needed drop-in care; 18% needed evening care; and only 11% needed weekend care.

Type of Care	Percentage of Respondents Needing Type of Care
After school care	69%
Full-time child care	62%
Before school care	44%
Sick child care	44%
Half-time child care	33%
Drop-in care	29%
Evening care	18%
Weekend care	11%

One respondent reported needing care during summer vacation, school holidays and in-service teacher training days. The county employee commented, “My children are too young to stay home by themselves, but too old for day care settings. They are 7, 9, and 11 years old.”

Where Care is Provided

In 2003, the California Child Care Portfolio reported that the majority of licensed care slots in Nevada County were housed in child care centers. Survey results were consistent with this, indicating that 62% of all respondents used center-based care for their children. When separated by age group however, children newborn to two years were most commonly cared for by licensed family child care providers.

One respondent stated, “The child care place only allows children to attend until they reach 6th grade. One is starting 6th grade, and I have no idea what to do for summer and school breaks. The middle school has after school care until I get off work.”

Need for Care

Overall, 73% of respondents said that their child care needs had been met in the last 12 months. Families with school age children reported the highest incident of having only some or none of their child care needs met however. Eighty-three percent of families with children two and under, 73% of families with children three to five years, and 53% of families with school age children reported that their child care needs were met.

When asked to explain why their child care needs were not met, respondents indicated that primarily the cost of care was too high, or the hours and days of care they needed were not available. Additional reasons included that care was too far away from home or work or they could not find a provider. One more reason that was mentioned by two respondents was that there was no accommodation for special needs children.

Priorities

County employees were asked to rate their top three child care needs. They were given the following list and were asked to place a 1 next to their top need, and a 2 and 3 next to their other major needs.

- Finding care that meets my hours/days
- Being able to afford the care I want
- Reliability of my caregiver(s)
- Quality of the child care environment
- Location convenient to home/work
- Safety issues
- Finding drop-in arrangements, and
- Other (please explain)

Of all respondents, 80% indicated that the quality of care was one of their top three priorities when selecting care for their children. Sixty percent reported that affordability as one of their top three priorities, and 60% reported that the hours and days available was one of their top three priorities.

Provider reliability was rated as one of their top three priorities by 36% of respondents, while 33% rated location in proximity to work or home one of their top three priorities. Safety and the availability of drop-in care were each rated as one of the top three priorities by 20% of the respondents.

When the responses were broken down by age group of children, some variances were apparent, while some consistencies appeared as well. For example, 100% of respondents with infants, 50% of respondents with 3-5 year olds, and 47% of respondents with school age children said that affordability was one of their top three priorities. Eighty-three percent (83%) of respondents with infants rated quality of care as one of the top three priorities, while 79% of children 3-5 years and 59% of families with school age children did.

Reliability of the caregiver was rated as one of the top three priorities by 50% of respondents with infants, 36% with 3-5 year olds, and 24% with school age children. Twenty-nine percent (29%) of respondents with 3-5 year olds as well as school age children rated convenient location as one of their top priorities, while only 17% of families with infants did. Surprisingly few parents rated safety as one of their top three priorities. No families with infants, 36% of families with 3-5 year olds, and 12% of families with school age children rated safety as one of their top three priorities when choosing care. This may be due to the assumption that quality care includes safety as a top priority already.

Finding care that met the days and hours they needed was one of the top three priorities for 50% of respondents with infants, 43% with 3-5 year olds, and 53% with school age children. Drop-in care was only rated as one of the top three priorities of families with school age children and ages 3-5. No families with infants rated the need for drop-in care as one of their top three priorities when choosing care.

Regarding affordability of care as a priority, one respondent wrote, “That’s not something as easy to place as numbers. We pay more than our family can truly afford because we want quality in the environment where we place our kids. So we are not about to go on vacations, all the extra money is eaten up by child care costs. But how can you prioritize issues like safety, reliability, and the like? I’m not going to lower my standards of children’s safety just because of the cost.”

Cost of Care

All families with infants that responded to the question regarding cost of care reported paying more than \$401 per month, while one third of respondents with infants reported spending over \$500 per month on care. 38% of families with 3-5 year olds reported paying between \$301 and \$400 a month for care, and another Thirty-eight percent (38%) of respondents with 3-5 year olds reported paying between \$401 and \$500 per month for care. Eight percent (8%) of respondents with children 3-5 years old reported paying over \$500 per month for care, while 15% reported paying \$100 per month or less for care of their 3-5 year old children.

Forty-two percent of families with school age children reported paying between \$301 and \$400 per month for care, and 21% reported paying between \$201 and \$300 per month for care. 13% each said they paid over \$500 a month for care, or \$100 per month or less. Eight percent (8%) of respondents with school age children reported paying between \$101 and \$200 per month for care, while 4% reported paying between \$401 and \$500 per month for care of school age children.

Proximity of Care

Sixty percent of all respondents said that care for their children was located close to home, and 18% of respondents said that care was provided close to their work. Twenty percent (20%) reported that their child care provider was located near both home and work, while 13% said that their child care provider was away from both work and home.

When asked to comment, transportation before and after school was identified as an issue, as was the cost of care. One respondent additionally commented, “We have decided as a family that it’s more important to have our child’s mother available for him than have the luxuries that a two income home could provide.”

Projected Child Care Needs

Respondents were asked to identify their top three needs for child care in the coming year. By far the most common answer given by 53% of all respondents was that they would need affordable child care in the next year. Second to affordability, 29% of all respondents said they would need care close to home, while 24% said they would need care close to work. Eighteen percent (18%) each said that they would need a) care for sick children, b) care for early mornings, c) recreation programs, and d) drop-in child care in the next year. Sixteen percent (16%) said that they would need vacation programs. Another 9% anticipated needing evening or nighttime care, and 7% said they would need all day preschool. Four percent (4%) each said they would need a) licensed family care, b) special needs care, and c) half-day preschool. Only 2% of all respondents anticipated needing care on weekends.

Focus Group Results

Press releases and advertisements were placed in local newspapers asking parents to attend focus groups in Truckee and Grass Valley to discuss their child care needs. Both focus groups were held in the evenings at easily accessible, familiar locations. Participants were asked the following questions:

1. What are your child care needs?
2. What issues do you face in accessing care?
3. What does quality care mean to you and can you find it?
4. What’s good regarding child care in your area?

This section discusses participant responses in Grass Valley and Truckee, plus highlights the similarities and differences between each group.

What Are Your Child Care Needs?

Grass Valley responses in this category can be broken down into four issues including availability, cost, quality and transportation. Primarily parents are seeking child care settings that offer varying and flexible hours for all ages of children. This is because not all parents work full-time or traditional 8-5 work days. Parents expressed the need for child care in the evenings, on the weekends and holidays as well as a need for more part-time care. The high cost of child care was an issue for some parents, as well as

transportation to and from child care or schools. There was also concern regarding the quality of care provided.

Truckee participants expressed concerns regarding the lack of availability of non-traditional child care hours as well. Drop in care, sick care, part-time care were types of care that were needed here as well. Another concern was the high cost of care and the insufficient amount of subsidy money available.

What Issues Do You Face in Accessing Care?

Responses to this question in Grass Valley fit into three major areas including availability, quality and cost. Again, participants expressed concern about the lack of part-time, off-hour care. Participants were also concerned about their inability to find emergency or sick care and expressed difficulties in finding quality child care. The cost of care was noted as a barrier for the working poor. It was noted that some working poor families have difficulty accessing subsidies, and when they do, they often have difficulty paying the co-pay.

The primary issue faced by participants in Truckee was the high cost of living. The level of child care subsidy funding was considered inadequate, and the working poor were considered to be the hardest hit by the high cost of living. Another issue was the lack of awareness and common knowledge regarding licensed care and other services.

What Does Quality Care Mean To You And Can You Find It?

Grass Valley participants defined quality care in varying terms. It was defined as competent/caring infant care; use of developmentally appropriate practices; low teacher/child ratios; preparing children for Kindergarten (school readiness); Montessori style college preschool programs; and qualified child care providers.

Quality care in Truckee was defined as opportunities to learn through play and experiences; low teacher/child ratios; using developmentally appropriate practices; clean, safe, large environments. It was noted that high quality child care programs generally had the longest waiting lists in both Truckee and Grass Valley.

What's Good?

Participants in Grass Valley felt that certain aspects of the quality of care provided were very positive. School readiness skills, positive socialization, and the balance between learning and play were all noted as positive aspects of care provided. Participants also noted that the networking opportunities offered by Sierra Nevada Children's Services (SNCS) and the local Association for the Education of Young Children were very helpful, as were the trainings they provided. However, participants were concerned that parents who stay home with their children received little support for doing so.

Participants in Truckee primarily felt that the providers who loved their jobs and their children were very positive. The relationship between the child and the provider was noted as very important. Other positive aspects were the social interactions between the children and the structure provided by child care providers. Mentoring programs, while limited in Truckee, were perceived as very important for providers.

The Differences Between Truckee and Grass Valley

The most notable difference between the two areas was the high cost of living in Truckee and the impact that it has on accessing child care. Many of the responses from the Truckee focus group participants, in all categories, related in some way to the high cost of living in Truckee. Grass Valley participants did not mention the cost of living, yet the high cost of child care was noted as a barrier to care.

Grass Valley participants noted the lack of quality care more frequently than did Truckee participants. However, many of the responses were similar including the lack of availability of non-traditional day care hours.

4. TRENDS IN NEVADA COUNTY CHILD CARE

This section discusses trends related to child care in Nevada County such as use of unlicensed care, and strengths as well as issues regarding the child care workforce. Additionally, a number of external factors or trends are likely to affect the CCCNC in coming years. Among the most important trends are state budget changes, Nevada County's School Readiness Initiative, and California's commitment to offer Universal Preschool by 2014.

School Age Care

Care for school age children is one of the most highly needed types of care in Nevada County as indicated by the number of resource and referral calls received by Sierra Nevada Children's Services (SNCS) and the results of the county employee survey.

Forty-one percent (41%) of all licensed slots in Nevada County child care centers are available for children 6 years and older. It is challenging to assess the full extent of care needed for this age group because school age programs do not have to be licensed if they occur at a school. School age care in Nevada County is provided onsite at schools, through 4-H programs, by park and recreation departments, in private licensed child care centers, and by licensed family child care homes.

Use of Unlicensed Care

License exempt providers include relatives, care in a child's own home, TrustLine providers, some public recreation programs, on-site care at schools and care in a provider's home when care is provided for one or more children from the same family. Legal license exempt care is a category resulting from Federal and State mandates requiring parental choice regarding the care of children.

TrustLine is a database of nannies and caregivers that have cleared criminal background checks in California, but who are not licensed. It is the only authorized screening program of in-home caregivers in California with access to fingerprint records at both the state Department of Justice and the FBI.

Although data specific to Nevada County was not available at the time of this report, it is well known that many parents choose relatives or friends as opposed to licensed care environments when choosing care for their children. This is due to many factors including work schedules, cost of care, convenience of location, comfort with the provider, and more.

It is known however, that many school age programs in Nevada County are not required to be licensed, and those programs remain a popular choice among many families of school age children.

Child Care Workforce

In order to achieve the goal of having affordable, quality child care available for all Nevada County children, the CCCNC surveyed the Early Care and Education workforce in late 2003 to determine their education levels, wages, motivations for being in the field, and their suggestions for improving

it. Responding providers included those working in child care centers, school districts, Head Start programs, licensed family care homes and those who were license exempt.

One hundred and eighty-three providers responded to the workforce survey which was distributed and collected between the months of October and December 2003. Of the 183 respondents, 121 (or 66%) worked in licensed centers, 39 (21%) cared for children in licensed family care homes, and 15 (8%) provided care in a license exempt setting. The remaining respondents did not specify the type of environment in which they worked.

Provider Characteristics

The average household size of providers responding to the survey was 2.99, 21% higher than the average household size county-wide for the year 2000. Seventy-eight percent (78%) of Nevada County providers lived in households with a total annual household income level above \$20,000 per year. However, 66% reported solely earning \$20,000 or less annually as a provider.

The majority of responding Nevada County providers were white, married females between the ages of 21 and 50 years old. Eighty percent (80%) or 142 of those providers were between 21 and 50 years of age, and 96% of those were female. Sixty-three percent (63%) or 112 respondents reported being married. Twenty-four percent (24%) were single; 8% were divorced; 3% were widowed; and 2% identified themselves as being separated.

Sixty-six percent (66%) of responding providers reported having children between the ages of birth and 17 years of age living in their households, with the majority (54%) having children between the ages of 6 and 17 years old.

Workforce Retention and Experience

When providers were asked if they intended to continue working in the field of child care, 88% said yes. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of those said that they expected to provide child care services for five or more years into the future.

Of the 8% or 15 respondents that said they did not intend to remain in the field, 53% said that they were changing careers for better wages and benefits; 27% said they wanted to work in a different field; and 13% said their children were now in school. The remainder gave reasons that included having a grandson, getting a teaching credential, and one provider stated that she was not able to be with her own children enough.

Although turnover rates could not be calculated because only those providers who remain in the field responded to the survey, it was possible to calculate an average number of years worked in the field. Providers working in all types of center environments had worked in the field for an average of eight years. Family home care respondents had been in the field for an average of ten years, and exempt providers had been in the field for an average of two years.

Annual Income and Hourly Wages

Thirty-three of the 39 large and small family care providers responded to the survey question regarding the range of their annual gross income. Of those, 9% said that they made between \$0 and

\$5,001 per year. Three percent (3%) stated that their gross annual income for providing care was between \$5,001 and \$10,000, while 24% stated that their annual gross income was between \$10,001 and \$20,000. Thirty-three percent (33%) stated that their gross annual income was between \$20,001 and \$30,000, and 9% earned between \$30,001 and \$40,000 per year. Finally, 21% of family care respondents stated that they made more than \$40,000 per year.

While 66% of all responding providers earned less than \$20,000 per year, it is also important to note that 63% of respondents who answered the question about their education level reported having attended two or more years of college. Sixty-nine of those, or 39% of all respondents answering the question, had earned college degrees. Of those, 38 providers had earned associate degrees, 25 had earned bachelor degrees, and six had earned graduate level degrees.

Hourly wages had risen since the Council’s 2000 workforce survey was conducted. At that time wages for assistant teachers were between \$6.00 and \$9.00 per hour. Teachers earned between \$6.75 and \$13.00 per hour; and Directors earned anywhere between \$7.50 and \$20.00 per hour.

When hourly wage ranges reported in the 2004 workforce study were compared across the number of hours worked each week, some interesting variations emerged as demonstrated in the following table. Wages for full time staff vary the most widely across all positions.

11 – 20 hours per week		21 – 30 hours worked per week		31 – 40 hours worked per week	
Position	Hourly Wage Range	Position	Hourly Wage Range	Position	Hourly Wage Range
Assistant	\$8.00 – 10.07	Assistant	\$7.34 – 10.72	Assistant	\$7.37 – 13.14
Teacher	\$8.00 – 11.80	Teacher	\$9.00 – 12.00	Teacher	\$7.50 – 20.00
Director	\$15*	Director	\$15.00 – 17.63	Director	\$10.92 – 23.00

**Only one director reported working between 11 and 20 hours per week.*

Nevada County Educator Support Program

Programs that reward early childhood educators for both their work with young children and their ongoing dedication to professional development including both college courses and less formal training have emerged across California. First 5 Nevada County began implementing the Nevada County Educator Support Program (ESP) in 2001. The initial pilot project for the program ended in June 2003. Eighty-one early childhood educators participated in that first phase of the program. The Commission decided to continue offering the program to educators of the county’s youngest children only. Participants in ESP are provided a stipend and engage in a mentoring program.

Survey respondents were asked if they participated in the ESP, and if they did so, what was the greatest benefit they received from the program. Thirty-nine survey respondents or 21% said that they had participated. Of those, 41% said that the greatest benefit they received from the program was the stipend. Thirty-three percent (33%) said the greatest benefit was the support and guidance from the program as well as other providers. Eighteen percent (18%) said that the greatest benefit was networking and connecting with other providers, while 8% said that the greatest benefits they received were health

insurance and retirement. One respondent stated that the greatest benefit she received was becoming a licensed provider.

Training, Education and Accreditation

When asked whether it was important that training be associated with credits, 52% of all survey respondents answered yes. When asked how many college credits they earned last year, 40% of all respondents reported taking one or more college unit in the last year. Eighty-six percent of those said the courses they took were either Human Development or Early Care and Education.

Fifty percent or 91 respondents answered the question regarding the number of hours of training they completed last year. Of those, 63% reported that they had completed 20 or more hours of training in the last year. The state only requires providers to attend 15 hours of training per year. Ninety-seven survey respondents answered the question regarding the number of days they spent attending trainings, workshops or college courses. Of those, 57% reported spending between one and ten days attending training each year.

Currently, there are five family care providers accredited by the *National Association for Family Child Care*, and one child care center is accredited by the *National Association for the Education of Young Children*. Twenty-one survey respondents stated that they were pursuing accreditation, and 11 respondents said that they would like more information regarding accreditation.

Other Factors Impacting Child Care in Nevada County

State Budget Cuts and Realignment

California's final budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 deferred, but did not eliminate, the realignment proposal for child care. The realignment issue was again tabled for FY 2005. However, several changes to existing child care programs in California were made. For example, services for eligible children were limited to those 12 years and younger. Some provider rate limits were lowered, and a share of child care costs were contributed by families when their income level reached 40% or more of the current income level index used for determining eligibility.

Most recently, in January 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget for fiscal year 2004-2005 identified approximately \$1.3 billion in direct reductions and costs shifted from state government to counties. The state budget crisis was expected to cost Nevada county \$3 million dollars, and local revenues were projected to decline slightly due to the economy and annexations. Initially, all departments were asked to do more with less by operating at 90% of the county's 2003-2004 fiscal year budget. Departments were asked to prioritize their services and keep only core functions.

In the final Nevada County budget, current levels of service in most areas of the county were not only maintained, but public safety services were strengthened. This was accomplished primarily by reorganizing or streamlining current resources. As a result of these streamlining efforts, 37 positions were eliminated. The County government now reviews every position for its necessity annually and as they become vacant. In the last year, administrative efficiencies were gained by consolidating programs and functions. Specifically several management positions were absorbed by existing staff. Additionally, the State's May budget revision proposed to end the shift of local revenues to State programs by the end of June 2006.

Another positive indicator is that the real estate market continues to remain strong, which provides continued property tax increases, a major source of revenue for the county budget.

Each year budget cuts are an issue for parents, providers and service agencies that operate programs to support families.

Universal Preschool

In 2003, a bill was approved by the Assembly Education Committee declaring that Universal Preschool would be available throughout California by the year 2014. Preschool programs would initially begin in the state's neediest school districts before branching out to reach all children. The bill does not specify yet whether early education will be free to all parents, charge a fee for services, or use a sliding fee scale.

However, AB712 was recently vetoed by the governor who stated, "Preschool can be a valuable addition to the education of many children, and I believe strongly that every child should be ready and able to succeed once they enter into the school system. My Administration recognizes that preschool, child care, and school readiness programs are important factors to the future academic success and well being of California's youth. At the same time, I also strongly believe that before we make promises about expanding the preschool system, I want to be sure that the State can actually deliver on that promise. Governing responsibility requires me to provide the State with a clear understanding of the potentially billions of dollars in costs and other requirements of preschool, in relation to the benefits and resources available, before determining the scope of the commitment that we can all enter into together. Some research and study has already been conducted and even more will be produced in the near term. My commitment to comprehensive school readiness is strong. My Administration will work in collaboration with the California Children and Families Commission and other interested groups and parties to assess the infrastructure and options available in providing a statewide preschool program. However, doing so does not require additional legislative authority, and therefore, this bill is unnecessary."

The California First 5 Commission has been working with the Packard Foundation and Pew Charitable Trusts to explore delivery models and funding mechanisms for a new statewide Universal Preschool system, taking into account the state's current economic climate. In conjunction with this, the Packard Foundation announced a new grantmaking initiative in April 2003 that seeks to ensure that California achieves and implements voluntary preschool for all 3 and 4 year olds by 2013. Only those entities that were invited could apply for the funds.

California First 5 is currently funding Universal Preschool planning efforts which will lead to communities becoming Preschool For All demonstration sites. Although Nevada County is not a recipient of one of these grants, the opportunity may arise in the next several years to piggyback on current efforts.

School Readiness Initiative

In 2003, First 5 Nevada County established specific School Readiness goals, strategies and measures, following the inception of the Nevada County School Readiness Program. The School Readiness Program was developed with the assistance of community experts and parents in Truckee and Grass Valley. Nevada County took the First 5 California Commission up on its invitation to provide funds to local commissions that submitted an appropriate School Readiness Plan.

Nevada County's School Readiness Plan addresses the following five elements:

1. Early care and education services with kindergarten transition programs
2. Parenting and family support services
3. Health and social services
4. Schools' capacity to prepare children and families for school success
5. Program infrastructure, administration and evaluation

The Truckee Elementary School and the Grass Valley School District were selected as sites to create model School Readiness Projects, because they had the highest prevalence of poverty, English Language Learners and parents with the lowest educational levels. In creating this model, the Commission directly engaged parents and families in both eastern and western Nevada County to solicit their input.

5. COMMUNITY PROFILES

Community profiles are presented in the following pages to illustrate the varying needs regarding child care among Nevada County communities. The communities were researched by zip code, school districts, and in the case of Truckee, by schools within the city. However, some of the smaller districts did not have data available from the census regarding general population, population of children, or therefore the estimated percentage of children needing care. In three cases, school districts were combined, primarily due to the fact that they serve the same zip code areas. For Truckee, the three elementary schools are part of the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District, which also includes schools in Placer County and is overseen by the Placer County Office of Education. Therefore, data from the three elementary schools serving Truckee was utilized to represent needs in that area of Nevada County.

The communities presented here include the following cities and/or school districts:

- ◆ Twin Ridges
- ◆ Grass Valley and Union Hill
- ◆ Pleasant Ridge and Clear Creek
- ◆ Nevada City
- ◆ Ready Springs and Pleasant Valley
- ◆ Chicago Park
- ◆ Truckee

Please note that CalWORKs is a welfare program that gives cash aid and services to eligible needy California families. The program serves all 58 counties in the state and is operated locally by county welfare departments. If a family has little or no cash and needs housing, food, utilities, clothing or medical care, they may be eligible to receive immediate short-term help. Families that apply and qualify for ongoing assistance receive money each month to help pay for housing, food and other necessary expenses.

CalWORKs payments are issued in the form of a check. The amount of a family's monthly assistance payment depends on a number of factors, including the number of people who are eligible and the special needs of any of those family members. The income of the family is considered in calculating the amount of cash aid the family receives.²²

²² Cited from the California Department of Social Services website: California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) found online at http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/california_169.htm

Twin Ridges

Total Population in 2000: **593**

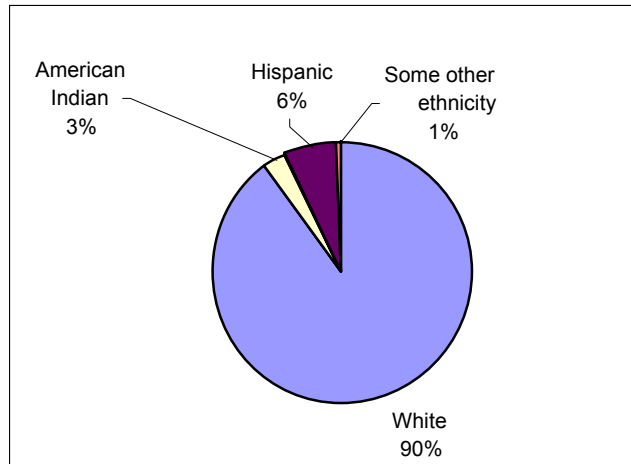
Population 0-18 Years in 2000: **90**

Population of children under 6 in 2000: **27**

Number of Children under 6 in Need of Care:²³ **10**

Children enrolled during 2003-2004 school year: **2,191**

Percentage of Population by Ethnicity at Twin Ridges School District



The Twin Ridges school district serves the two communities of North San Juan and Washington in Nevada County. However, the district serves children from outside of those communities through charter schools located outside of the county. Therefore, the total number of children enrolled in the Twin Ridges School District is substantially greater than the number of children residing there (90 children reside in the area, whereas 2,191 are enrolled in district schools).

The median household income in the Twin Ridges district is less than the county's, and the disparity in median household income between the two communities is substantial. The median household income in North San Juan is \$41,875 compared to \$21,667 in Washington. Almost 2% of children enrolled in the Twin Ridges school district live in families receiving public assistance through CalWORKs.

Ninety-four percent (94%) of residents in the Twin Ridges School District speak English as their primary language; 5% speak Spanish as their primary language, and just 1% speak another Indo-European language. Almost one quarter of the children enrolled in this district are eligible for free or reduced meals.

According to the California Department of Education, a total of 167 children at Twin Ridges Elementary are enrolled in special education. The greatest percentage of those, 43%, have been diagnosed with specific learning disabilities; 35% have speech or language impairment, 8% have mental retardation, and 7% are listed as having other health impairments. Another 3% have been diagnosed with autism, 2% with emotional disturbance, and 1% each are hard of hearing or have an orthopedic impairment.

²³ Children with both parents or a single parent in the workforce

- ⇒ There are two early care and education programs in the Twin Ridges district, a 4-H after school program, and a combined Head Start and State Preschool program. No licensed private child care is housed in this district.
- ⇒ There are 12 children receiving child care subsidies in the Twin Ridges district. Of those, 42% are school age, 33% are 2-5 years, and 25% are under 2 years.
- ⇒ There are 8 families and 12 children on the eligibility list for child care subsidies in the Twin Ridges district.

Grass Valley and Union Hill

Total Population in 2000: **23,957**

Population 0-18 Years in 2000: **5,259**

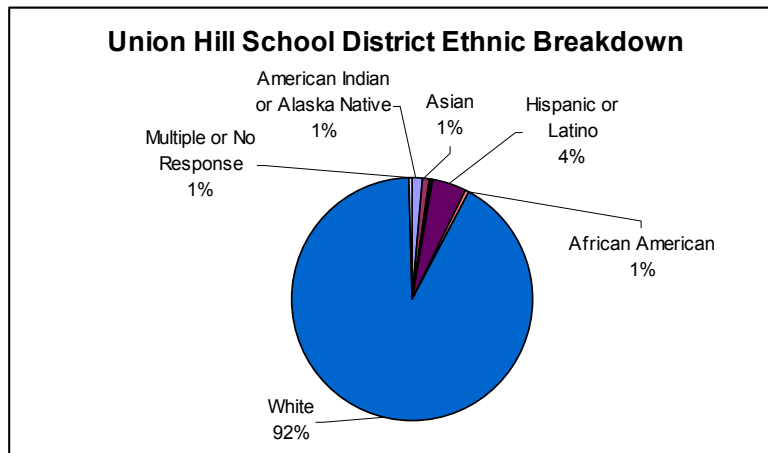
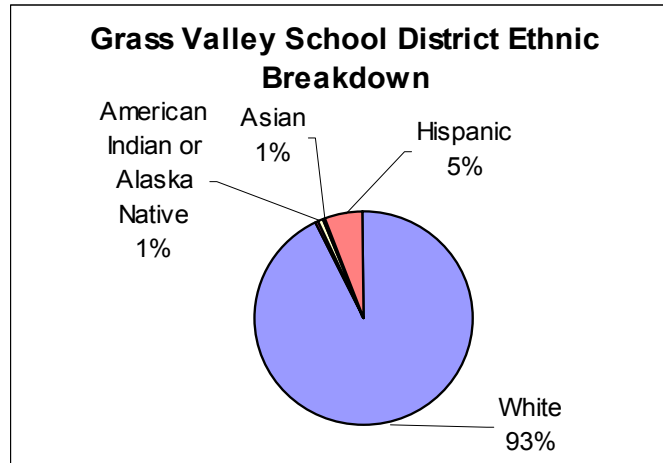
Population of children under 6 in 2000: **1,363**

Number of Children under 6 in Need of Care²⁴: **887**

Children enrolled during 2003-2004 school year: **2,627**

Children enrolled at Grass Valley: **1,848**

Children enrolled at Union Hill: **779**



The Grass Valley school district serves the city of Grass Valley, while the Union Hill School District serves the community of Cedar Ridge. The Grass Valley district has the lowest median household income of all districts in the county at \$33,629 annually. Just over 9% of the children enrolled at Grass Valley Elementary and 2% of children enrolled at Union Hill Elementary live in families receiving CalWORKs.

Ninety-two percent (92%) of residents in the Grass Valley School District primarily speak English; 4% speak Spanish and 3% speak another Indo-European language. Over 42% of children enrolled in the

²⁴ Children with both parents or a single parent in the workforce

Grass Valley school district and 20% of the children enrolled at the Union Hill school district are eligible for free or reduced meals.

A total of 197 children are enrolled in special education at Grass Valley Elementary. The majority of those children, 59%, have been diagnosed with a speech or language impairment. Twenty-nine percent (29%) have specific learning disabilities, while 4.5% have emotional disturbances. The remaining diagnoses break down as follows: 3% have mental retardation; 2% have autism; 1% has orthopedic impairments; 1% has other health impairments; and 0.5% is hard of hearing.

A total of 55 children at Union Hill Elementary are enrolled in special education. Of those, 80% have been diagnosed with speech or language impairment, 11% with specific learning disabilities; and 5% have orthopedic impairment. Another 2% have been diagnosed with autism, and 2% are hard of hearing.

- ⇒ There are 19 small family child care homes, 14 large family child care homes, 8 child care centers, 2 State Preschools, and a 4-H after school program providing care in the Grass Valley and Union Hill school districts.
- ⇒ 291 children receive child care subsidies in Grass Valley. Of those, 44% are school age, 41% are 2-5 years old, and 15% are under 2 years.
- ⇒ There are 135 families with 239 children on the eligibility list for child care subsidies in the Grass Valley district.

Pleasant Ridge and Clear Creek

Total Population in 2000: **17,761**

Population 0-18 Years in 2000: **3,517**

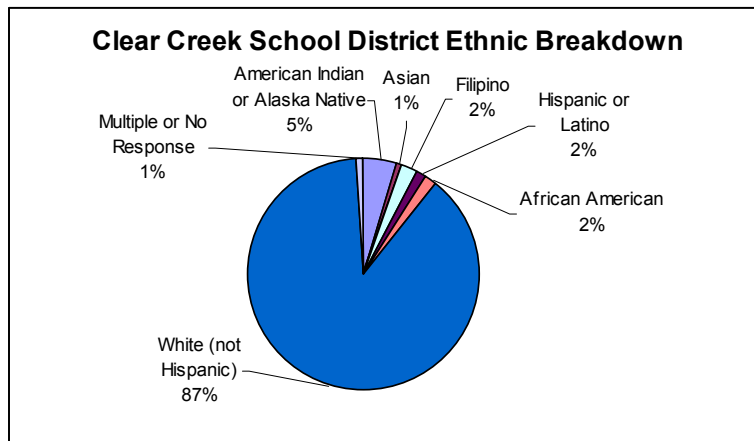
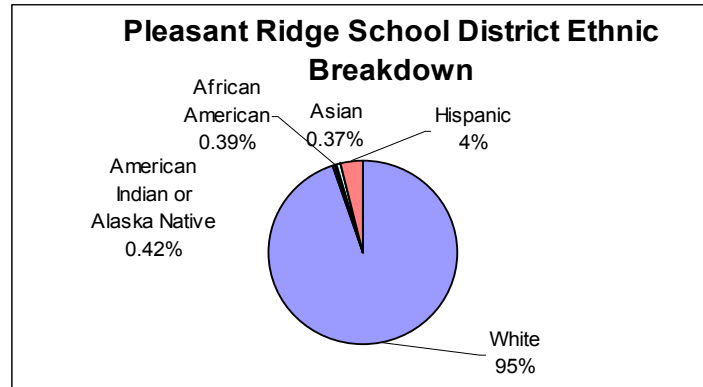
Population of children under 6 in 2000: **785**

Number of Children under 6 in Need of Care²⁵: **498**

Children enrolled during 2003-2004 school year: **2,202**

Children enrolled at Clear Creek: **129**

Children enrolled at Pleasant Ridge: **2,073**



The Pleasant Ridge and Clear Creek school districts serve residents of rural Grass Valley. Residents in those school districts have a higher median household income level than the county overall at \$50,816 annually. Almost 5% of children attending elementary schools in both of these districts live in families receiving CalWORKS.

Eighty-nine percent (89%) of residents in Pleasant Ridge and Clear Creek districts primarily speak English; 5% speak Spanish and 4% speak another Indo-European language. Almost one quarter of children enrolled at Pleasant Ridge Elementary and over 30% of children enrolled at Clear Creek Elementary are eligible for free or reduced meals.

²⁵ Children with both parents or a single parent in the workforce

A total of 177 children at Pleasant Ridge and Clear Creek Elementary Schools are enrolled in special education. The greatest percentage of those, 50% have been diagnosed with speech or language impairment, and 35% have specific learning disabilities; 5.6% have other health impairments; 4% have been diagnosed with emotional disturbance. Another 1.7% has autism. Slightly more than 1% has been diagnosed with either visual impairment or mental retardation, and 0.6% is listed as having an orthopedic impairment or being both deaf and blind.

- ⇒ There are 12 small family child care homes, 6 large family child care homes, 1 private child care center, and 4 4-H after school programs in the Pleasant Ridge and Clear Creek school districts.
- ⇒ There are 42 children receiving child care subsidies in the districts of Pleasant Ridge and Clear Creek. Of those, 43% are school age children; 31% are 2-5 years old; and 26% are under 2 years.
- ⇒ There are 17 families with 30 children on the eligibility list for child care subsidies in the Pleasant Ridge and Clear Creek school districts.

Nevada City

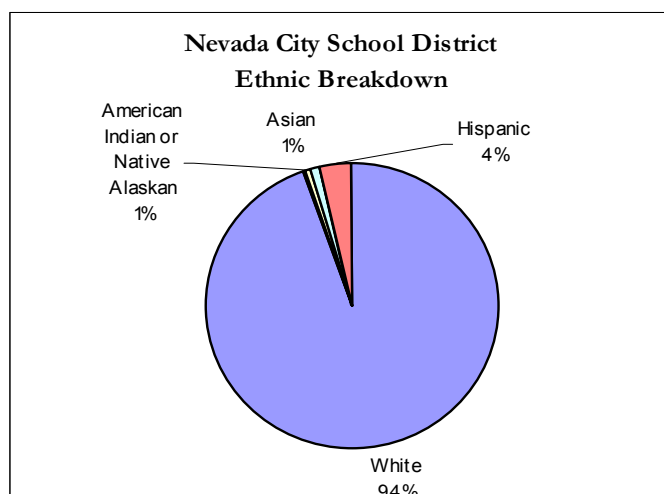
Total Population in 2000: **17,367**

Population 0-18 Years in 2000: **2,125**

Population of children under 6 in 2000: **795**

Number of Children under 6 in Need of Care²⁶: **432**

Children enrolled during 2003-2004 school year: **1,436**



The median household income in the Nevada City district is approximately the same as the median household income for the entire county at \$45,803 annually. Almost 4% of children enrolled in school in the Nevada City school district live in families that are CalWORKs recipients.

Ninety-three percent (93%) of residents in Nevada City School District primarily speak English; 3% speak Spanish; and 2% speak another Indo-European language. Over 15% of all children enrolled in this district are eligible for free or reduced meals.

A total of 119 children at Nevada City Elementary are enrolled in special education. The largest percentage of those, 43%, has been diagnosed with specific learning disabilities; 40% have speech or language impairment. Five percent (5%) have autism, and 4.2% are listed as having other health impairments. Another 3.4% have been diagnosed with emotional disturbance, and 2% each have either an orthopedic impairment or mental retardation.

- ⇒ One small family child care home, 6 large family child care homes, 6 private child care centers, 1 state preschool and a center located in a high school currently serving the Nevada City district.
- ⇒ There are 48 children receiving child care subsidies in the district of Nevada City. Of those, 52% are school age; 33% are 2-5 years old, and 15% are under 2 years.

²⁶ Children with both parents or a single parent in the workforce

⇒ 24 families with 43 children are currently on the eligibility list for child care subsidies in the Nevada City district.

Ready Springs and Pleasant Valley

Total Population in 2000: **11,343**

Population 0-18 Years in 2000: **2,050**

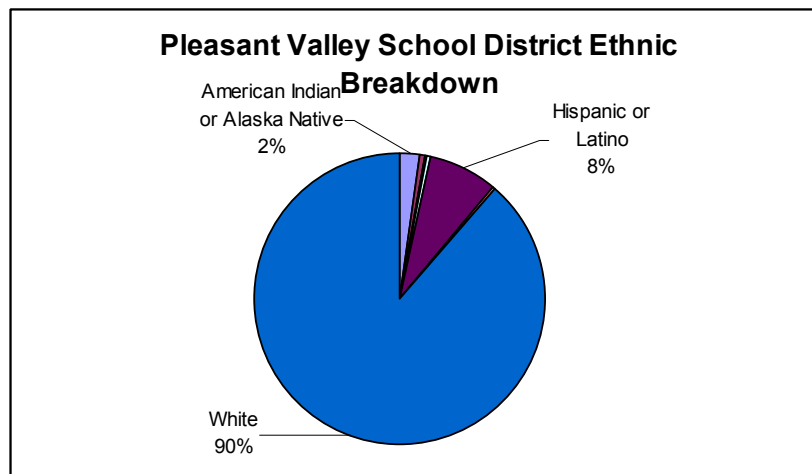
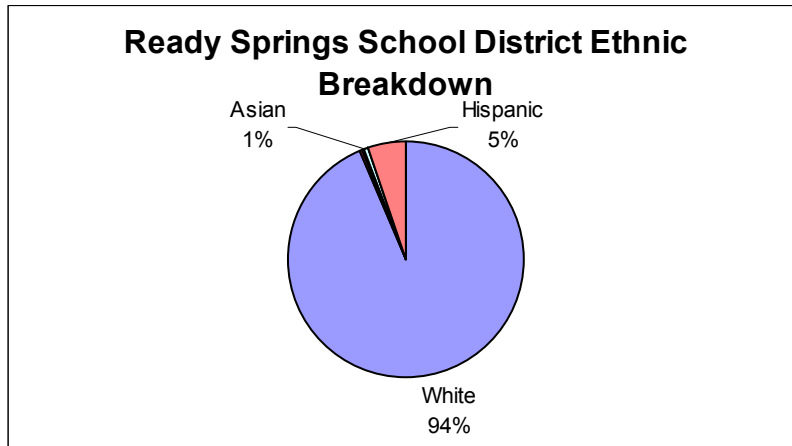
Population of children under 6 in 2000: **521**

Number of Children under 6 in Need of Care²⁷: **306**

Children enrolled during 2003-2004 school year: **1,101**

Children enrolled at Ready Springs: **404**

Children enrolled at Pleasant Valley: **697**



These two school districts serve the communities of Penn Valley and Rough and Ready. The median family income in Penn Valley is \$50,591, while the median family income in Rough and Ready is \$44,643. Over 5% of children enrolled at Ready Springs Elementary, and 2.3% of children enrolled at Pleasant Valley Elementary are CalWORKs recipients.

Ninety-two percent (92%) of residents in Ready Springs and Pleasant Valley school districts primarily speak English; 4% speak Spanish and 4% speak another Indo-European language. More than 35% of

²⁷ Children with both parents or a single parent in the workforce

children enrolled in Ready Springs and 18% of children at Pleasant Valley Elementary are eligible for free or reduced meals.

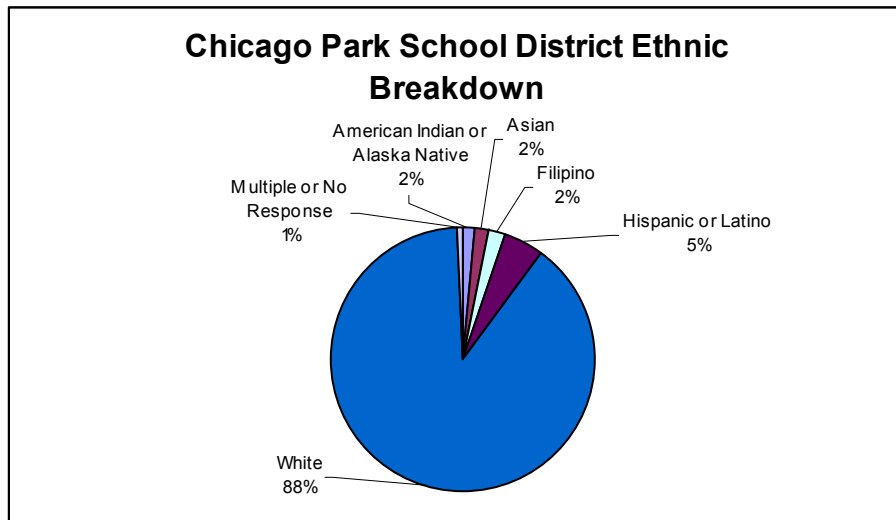
A total of 87 children at Pleasant Valley and Ready Springs Union Elementary Schools are enrolled in special education. The greatest percentage of those, 54%, have been diagnosed with speech or language impairment, 24% have specific learning disabilities, 9% have autism, and 7% are listed as having emotional disturbances. Another 3.4% have been diagnosed with mental retardation, and 2.3% with other health impairments.

- ⇒ There are 7 small family child care homes, 2 large family child care homes, one combined State Preschool and Head Start, and one 4-H after school program in the Ready Springs and Pleasant Valley districts.
- ⇒ There are 62 children receiving child care subsidies in the Ready Springs and Pleasant Valley districts. Of those, 47% are school age, 37% are 2-5 years old, and 16% are under 2 years.
- ⇒ 30 families with 55 children are currently on the eligibility list for child care subsidies in these districts.

Chicago Park

No data was available for this district on the Census website according to the zip code. However, data was available on the California Department of Education website regarding students enrolled, ethnicity and special needs. The available data is included here.

Children enrolled during 2003-2004 school year: 131



There are no English Learners enrolled in the Chicago Park School District. There is only one school within this district, Chicago Park Elementary. Almost 21% of children enrolled in this district are eligible for free or reduced meals, and almost 5% are CalWORKs recipients.

A total of 6 children at Chicago Park Elementary are enrolled in Special Education. Of those, 50% have been diagnosed with specific learning disabilities and 50% have speech or language impairment.

- ⇒ There is no licensed child care of any type available in the Chicago Park area.
- ⇒ No children receive child care subsidies in the Chicago Park area.
- ⇒ One family with 3 children is on the eligibility list for child care subsidies in the Chicago Park district.

Truckee

Total Population in 2000: **13,967**

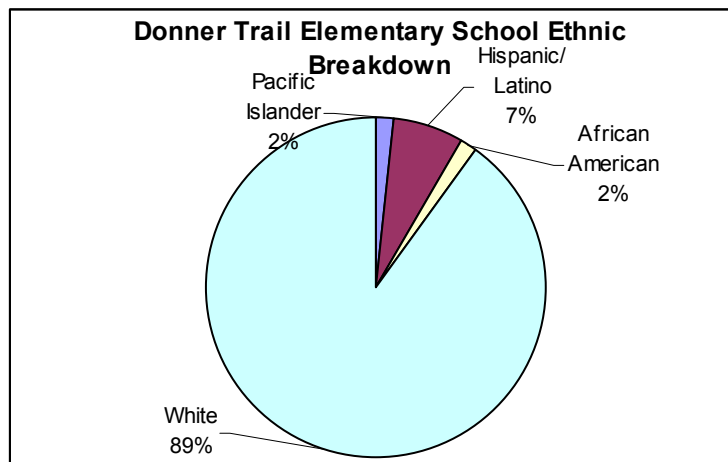
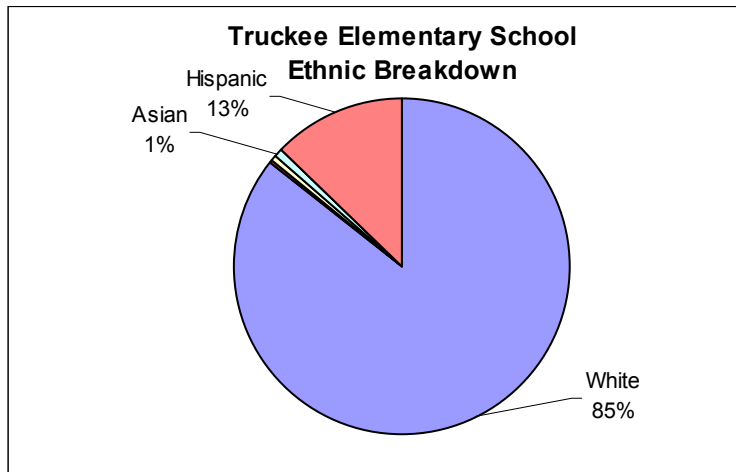
Population 0-18 Years in 2000: **3,786**

Population of children under 6 in 2000: **1,095** Number of Children under 6 in Need of Care²⁸: **780**

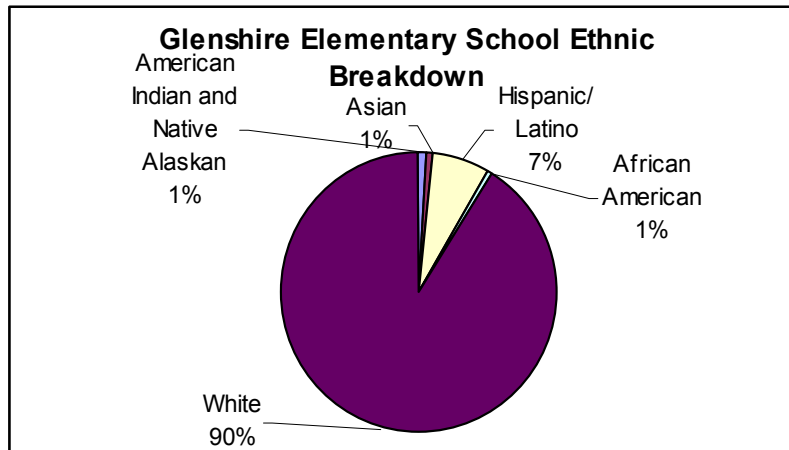
Children enrolled during 2003-2004 school year: **1,241**

Children enrolled at Truckee Elementary: **656** Children enrolled at Donner Trail Elementary: **61**

Children enrolled at Glenshire Elementary: **524**



²⁸ Children with both parents or a single parent in the workforce



Families in Truckee have the highest median income level of all communities in Nevada County, \$58,113 annually. This is almost 27% higher than the overall median family income for the county. No families enrolled at any of the three elementary schools serving Truckee are CalWORKs recipients.

Eighty-five percent 85% of residents in Truckee primarily speak English; 10% speak Spanish and 5% speak another Indo-European language. Almost one quarter (24%) of children enrolled at Truckee Elementary, 8% at Donner Trail Elementary, and 7% at Glenshire Elementary are eligible for free or reduced meals.

A total of 96 children at Truckee Elementary are enrolled in special education. The greatest percentage of those, 43%, has been diagnosed with speech or language impairment, and 35% have specific learning disabilities. 13% have mental retardation, and 3% have an orthopedic impairment. Two percent (2%) are listed as having other health impairments. Another 2% have been diagnosed with autism, while 1% each have been diagnosed with emotional disturbance or are hard of hearing.

Fifty-one children at Glenshire Elementary are enrolled in special education. The largest percentage of those enrolled in special education (51%) has been diagnosed with specific learning disabilities. Forty-one percent (41%) have speech and language impairments, and 2% each have been diagnosed with emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, or are hard of hearing.

Three children attending Donner Trail Elementary are enrolled in special education. All three have been diagnosed with speech or language impairments.

- ⇒ There are 11 small family child care homes, 9 large family child care homes, 9 child care centers, one State Preschool, one Head Start, one Early Head Start program, and one after school program provided by the parks and recreation department in Truckee.
- ⇒ There are 47 children receiving child care subsidies in Truckee. Of those, 55% are school age, 32% are 2-5 years old, and 13% are under 2 years.
- ⇒ 57 families with 103 children are currently on the waiting list for child care subsidies in Truckee.

APPENDIX A: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Child Welfare Services/Case Management System Characteristics of Children in Out of Home Care for the Month of December 2003, Nevada County Found online at:
<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/research/res/pdf/CWS2/2003/cws2Dec03.PDF>
2. Child Care Law Center, Initial Response to January 2004 Proposed Budget, January 13, 2004
<http://www.childcarelaw.org/Publications1/Budget%20Response%20January%202004.pdf>
3. Historical Table. Primary Child Care Arrangements Used by employed Mothers of Preschoolers: 1985 to 1999. Found online at <http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/child/ppl-168/tabH-1.pdf>
4. Nevada County Executive Summary regarding the final 2004-2005 budget. Found online at <http://docs.co.nevada.ca.us/dscgi/ds.py/Get/File-80457/-p99lkkq.pdf>
5. Child Care Coordinating Council of Nevada County Workforce Survey 2003

APPENDIX B: SURVEY

Nevada County Employee Child Care Survey

1. How many children do you have in the following age groups?

of children

- a. _____ infants (newborn through 2 years)
- b. _____ preschool (3 years through 5 years)
- c. _____ school-age (6 years through 12 years)

2. Check all the types of care needed by your children over the past 12 months while you worked. (Check the appropriate box to match the age of your child with the type of care.)

	0-2 years	3-5 years	6-12 years
Full-time child care			
Half-time child care			
Evening care			
Before school care			
After school care			
Drop-in care			
Sick child care			
Weekend care			
Other (explain)			

3. Check the primary way in which care is provided for your children while you work. (Check the appropriate box to match the age of your child with the type of care.)

	0-2 years	3-5 years	6-12 years
Relative in our home			
Non-relative in our home			
In relative's home			
In non-relative's home			
Licensed child care center			
Licensed family child care home			
Other (explain)			

4. Were your child care needs met in the last 12 months?

	0-2 years	3-5 years	6-12 years
Yes			
Some			
No			

5. If your child care needs were not met, please explain why. (Check all that apply.)

	0-2 years	3-5 years	6-12 years
Cost of care was too high			
Couldn't find provider for care			
Care was too far away from home or work			
No accommodation for special needs child (please explain below)			
Caregiver was not bilingual (please explain below)			
Hours or days were not available			
Other (explain)			

6. What are your top three child care needs? (Place a 1 next to your top need, and a 2 and 3 next to your other major needs.)

	0-2 years	3-5 years	6-12 years
Finding care that meets my hours/days			
Being able to afford the care I want			
Reliability of my caregiver(s)			
Quality of the child care environment			
Location convenient to home/work			
Safety issues			
Finding drop-in arrangements			
Other (explain)			

7. What is the average amount per month that you pay for child care?

	0-2 years	3-5 years	6-12 years
Average \$\$ per month			

8. Where are your current arrangements located?

	0-2 years	3-5 years	6-12 years
Close to home			
Close to work			
Close to both			
Away from both			
Other (explain)			

9. Check all the following options that you currently need while you work or will need in the next year. (Place a 1 next to your top need, and a 2 and 3 next to your other major needs.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> care close to home | <input type="checkbox"/> licensed family child care home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> care close to work | <input type="checkbox"/> care for early mornings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> special needs care | <input type="checkbox"/> care for evenings/nights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> affordable care | <input type="checkbox"/> 24-hour care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> care for sick children | <input type="checkbox"/> care on weekends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> half-day preschool | <input type="checkbox"/> drop-in care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> vacation programs | <input type="checkbox"/> all day preschool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> recreation programs | <input type="checkbox"/> bilingual care |

10. Zip code of home address _____

Please add any comments about your child care needs.

Thank you for participating. Please return your completed survey by August 15, 2004 to **Marcia Westbrook** by email at lpcmwestbrook@onemain.com; or mail it to **The Child Care Coordinating Council of Nevada County, 640 East Main Street, Suite #3, Grass Valley, CA 95945**; or fax it to (530) 271-0268.

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Social Entrepreneurs, Inc, a company dedicated to improving the abilities and capabilities of human service organizations and thereby improving the quality of life for individuals and communities, provided support and guidance throughout the planning process. SEI can be contacted at 6121 Lakeside Drive, Suite 160, Reno, Nevada 89511 (775) 324-4567, or on the Internet at <http://www.socialent.com>.
